

By

Floyd G. Harris

H. B. No. **32**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

requiring a physician to test a newborn baby for hearing defects and to make a full report to the State Department of Health; exempting a physician from civil and criminal liability for reporting a hearing defect when none existed; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Section 1. A physician shall test a newborn baby for hearing defects. If he detects a hearing defect, he shall make a full report to the State Department of Health on a form prescribed and furnished by the department.

Sec. 2. A physician is immune from civil and criminal liability for reporting to the State Department of Health a hearing defect when none in fact existed.

Sec. 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this Rule is hereby suspended.

Bill Neall

By: Floyd of Harris

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BILL ANALYSIS

(1) Background information:

H. B. 32 was proposed in order that hearing defects may be discovered and reported as soon after birth as possible so that appropriate treatment may be prescribed if necessary.

(2) What the Bill proposes to do:

H. B. 32 requires physicians to test newborn babies for hearing defects and to report to Department of Health; and exempts physicians from liability for reporting a defect when none exists.

(3) Sectional analysis:

Section 1. Requires physicians to test for and report hearing defects in newborn babies.

Section 2. Exempts physicians from liability for reporting a defect when none existed.

Section 3. Declares an emergency.

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By Joseph J. Harris

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FILED

JAN 18 1967

JAN 28 1967 READ 1ST TIME

AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON

Public Health